## Message Text

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**ACTION EA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 /074 W

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R 010958Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8892

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 15787

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PGOV, CB

SUBJECT: FURTHER ON RUMORED SIHANOUK RETURN

- 1. ADDING TO THE RUMORS OVER SIHANOUK'S PLANS TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED A CONFIDENIAL REPORT FROM PEKING APPROXIMATELY JULY 21 WHICH STATED THAT THE PRINCE HAS NOW DECIDED NOT TO GO HOME. ACCORDING TO THAT EMBASSY'S CAMBODIA WATCHER, COL. TANABE, THE REPORT QUOTED ONE OF SIHANOUK'S SONS AS HAVING TOLD A CLOSE FRENCH FRIEND OF THE DECISION. THE SON ALSO SAID THAT BOTH THE SOVIET AND NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADORS IN NORTH KOREA HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH HIS FATHER DAILY IN PYONGYANG.
- 2. TO CONFUSE THE SITUATION FURTHER, THE
  JAPANESE EMBASSY RECEIVED AN ACCOUNT FROM TOKYO JULY 31
  OF COMMENTS A FRIENDLY MEMBER OF A JAPANESE DELEGATION
  WHICH JUST RETURNED FROM PYONGYANG PROVIDED THE GOJ
  FOREIGN MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO THIS STORY--WHICH THE
  PRESS IS ALSO CARRYING--DRPK PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG TOLD
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THE DELEGATION THAT SIHANOUK WILL RETURN TO PHNOM PENH

IN SEPTEMBER.

3. FINALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BANGKOK-RESIDING GRANDMOTHER OF ONE OF SIHANOUK'S DAUGHTERS HAS HAD HER BAGS PACKED TO TRAVEL TO PEKING AND THEN PH OM PENH FOR SOME TIME, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO FURTHER WORD AS TO WHEN TO DEPART SINCE THE INITIAL INVITATION A MONTH AGO.

4. COULD THE REAL REASON FOR SIHANOUK'S HESITATION BE THE FOLLOWING? A KC SOLDIER TOLD A JOURNALIST AT THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER RECENTLY THAT "IF HE COMES BACK TO CAMBODIA HE WILL HAVE TO WORK IN THE FIELDS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS." WHITEHOUSE

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Subject: FURTHER ON RUMORED SIHANOUK RETURN TAGS: PGOV, PINR, CB, CH, JA, (SIHANOUK, NORODOM) To: STATE

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